

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 01282 072201Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-08 COME-00 FEA-01
ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 FPC-01 H-02 INT-05 L-03
NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 OES-06 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00
ACDA-10 /116 W

-----081149Z 109693 /11

R 072125Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4610

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 1282

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, SWEL, HA
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT DUVALIER ANNOUNCES STEPS TAKEN TO SOLVE
POWER CRISIS

REF:1 (A) PORT AU PRINCE 1187, (B) PORT AU PRINCE 1079,

(C) PORT AU PRINCE 1063, (D) PORT AU PRINCE 1053,
(E) PORT AU PRINCE 1045

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT DUVALIER REVIEWED, IN AN APRIL 6 ADDRESS TO THE NATION, STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO SOLVE THE ELECTRICITY CRISIS. SOME RELIEF IS EXPECTED BY MAY FROM FIVE GENERATING UNITS OF 2 MW EACH AND MORE IN JUNE OR JULY FROM FOUR GENERATING UNITS OF 2-1/2 MW EACH. NEVERTHELESS, THE ECONOMY HAS BEEN WEAKENED AND, ALTHOUGH AN END TO THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS ON THE HORIZON, THE LONG TERM PROBLEM HAS NOT YET BEEN ADDRESSED. END SUMMARY

2. 2. PRESIDENT DUVALIER SAID IN HIS APRIL 6 ADDRESS TO THE NATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS IN THE PROCESS OF INSTALLING FIVE DIESEL GENERATORS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 10 MW.
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FOUR OTHER GENERATORS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 10 MW HAVE BEEN PURCHASED FROM GENERAL MOTORS AND SHOULD BE ON LINE IN "A FEW MONTHS". "WITHIN SEVERAL MONTHS THE COMPLETION OF THE NEW 22 MW GENERATING PLANT WILL MAKE UP OUR ENERGY DEFICIT..."

3. PORT-AU-PRINCE NOW HAS AN AVERAGE OF 7MW OF

POWER AVAILABLE FROM ITS OLD DIESEL GENERATORS AT THE DOWNTOWN PLANT. IN ADDITION, IT RECEIVES 18 MW FROM PELIGRE FROM 7 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON AND UP TO 7 MW FROM 12:00 NOON TO 5 P.M. PELIGRE IS A DOUBTFUL SOURCE OF CONTINUING POWER AS WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES NEEDED TO CONTINUE GENERATING CONFLICT WITH THE NEED TO USE MORE WATER FOR IRRIGATION THE ENDANGERED RICE CROP IN THE LOWER ARTIBONITE. INDEED, IT IS EXPECTED TO DROP OUT OF THE CIRCUIT BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH. THE FIRST DIESEL GENERATING INCREMENT OF 10 MW SHOULD BE ON LINE BY THE END OF THE MONTH AND WOULD PROVIDE PORT-AU-PRINCE WITH A TOTAL OF 17 MW (NORMAL DEMAND IS 34 MW) WHEN PELIGRE DROPS OUT OF THE CIRCUIT. THE SECOND INCREMENT OF 10 MW PROBABLY WON'T BE ON LINE UNTIL LATE JUNE OR JULY. CONSTRUCTION OF THE 22 MW (ACTUALLY 21 MW) WORLD BANK FINANCED GENERATING PLANT MENTIONED BY THE PRESIDENT IS BEHIND SCHEDULE AND IT IS UNLIKELY TO BE ON LINE IN LESS THAN A YEAR.

4. ELECTRICITY SHORTAGES WILL CAUSE CONTINUING AND PROBABLY INCREASING HARDSHIP THROUGH JUNE OR JULY. THE WATER SHORTAGE WILL BE EXACERBATED BY LACK OF ELECTRICITY TO RUN PUMPS. TOURIST ARRIVALS HAVE DROPPED OFF, REDUCING INCOMES OF THOSE EMPLOYED BY THE INDUSTRY. THE TOTAL INCOME OF THE APPROXIMATELY 35,000 WORKERS NORMALLY EMPLOYED BY THE LIGHT INDUSTRIAL SECTOR HAS BEEN REDUCED BY 30-40 PER CENT THROUGH A COMBINATION OF LAYOFFS AND REDUCED SALARIES. THIS IS NO SMALL AMOUNT FOR A GROUP THAT AVERAGES LESS THAN \$45 PER MONTH AND HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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BEEN HURT BADLY BY RAPID PRICE INFLATION OF PRINCIPAL FOODS SUCH AS RICE AND CORN. LIGHT INDUSTRIAL EXPORTS ARE BEING REDUCED AND THIS WILL HELP INCREASE THE CHRONIC TRADE DEFICIT.

5. OUTLOOK: CONTINUED ELECTRICITY SHORTAGES THROUGH JUNE OR JULY. PELIGRE PROBABLY WILL BE ON LINE AGAIN IN THE FALL, PROVIDING ADEQUATE ELECTRICITY AT LEAST UNTIL THE NEW 21 MW PLANT COMES ON LINE IN APRIL 1978. ISHAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS, ELECTRIC GENERATORS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTA01282
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770123-0125
Format: TEL
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770477/aaaacpks.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d2bec9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PORT AU PRINCE 1187, 77 PORT AU PRINCE 1079, 77 PORT AU PRINCE 1063, 77 PORT AU PRINCE 1053, 77 PORT AU PRINCE 1045
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2867669
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT DUVALIER ANNOUNCES STEPS TAKEN TO SOLVE POWER CRISIS
TAGS: ENRG, SWEL, HA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d2bec9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009